FAST LTA

Customer Case Study | Silent Bricks | Geographically Separated and Air-Gapped Backups

How the Municipality of Noordoostpolder distributes backups across two locations and adds an offline copy

The Municipality of Noordoostpolder had an outdated NAS and a single backup copy within its operational environment. In the event of a major failure, historical backups could therefore be lost. Together with Nexxt and Comex, the municipality implemented Silent Bricks across two locations, along with removable modules for an offline copy of data with shorter retention periods.

A single copy was too vulnerable

The Municipality of Noordoostpolder used a NAS for backups, but the storage was outdated and the copy remained within the operational environment. The municipality also wanted to protect older recovery points. In the event of a major failure or compromise of that environment, a single copy provided insufficient protection. The team therefore sought geographical separation, a physically detachable backup and a setup that could grow within the available budget.

Storage capacity was also difficult to determine in advance, as the municipality was carrying out a major migration of local environments. A modular solution made it possible to start with the required capacity and add more later. The municipality wanted to continue managing its storage locally and used Commvault for backups.

The experience?

“Thanks to the clear collaboration, the implementation went smoothly.”

Harry Beekman, Manager Projects & Consultancy at IT partner Nexxt



Photos: Gemeente Noordoostpolder, January 2026

COMEX

Two retention paths and a removable copy

Long-standing IT partner Nexxt worked with Comex to define Noordoostpolder's requirements during technical sessions. Nexxt was familiar with the existing infrastructure and guided the selection and implementation process; Comex supported the design and quotation with product expertise. The selected configuration consists of two Silent Brick G5200 controllers, distributed across two locations. Backup data is replicated between the locations.

For backups with shorter retention periods, the municipality uses Silent Brick Max storage alongside four removable Silent Brick Air modules for an offline copy. For longer retention, a separate Silent Brick Max configuration has been implemented, also with replication to the second location. In this setup, the air gap applies to the backups with shorter retention periods; the long-term backup copies are replicated across the two locations.

More recovery options without a fixed growth path

The municipality now has multiple copies at separate locations and a physically disconnected backup for short-term retention. This reduces dependence on the operational environment. According to the case study, installation went smoothly and the solution operated without reported problems after deployment.

The modular design supports the ongoing data migration: Noordoostpolder can add capacity once its actual requirements become clear. The municipality used the 3-2-1-1-0 rule as a design principle for its backup strategy.